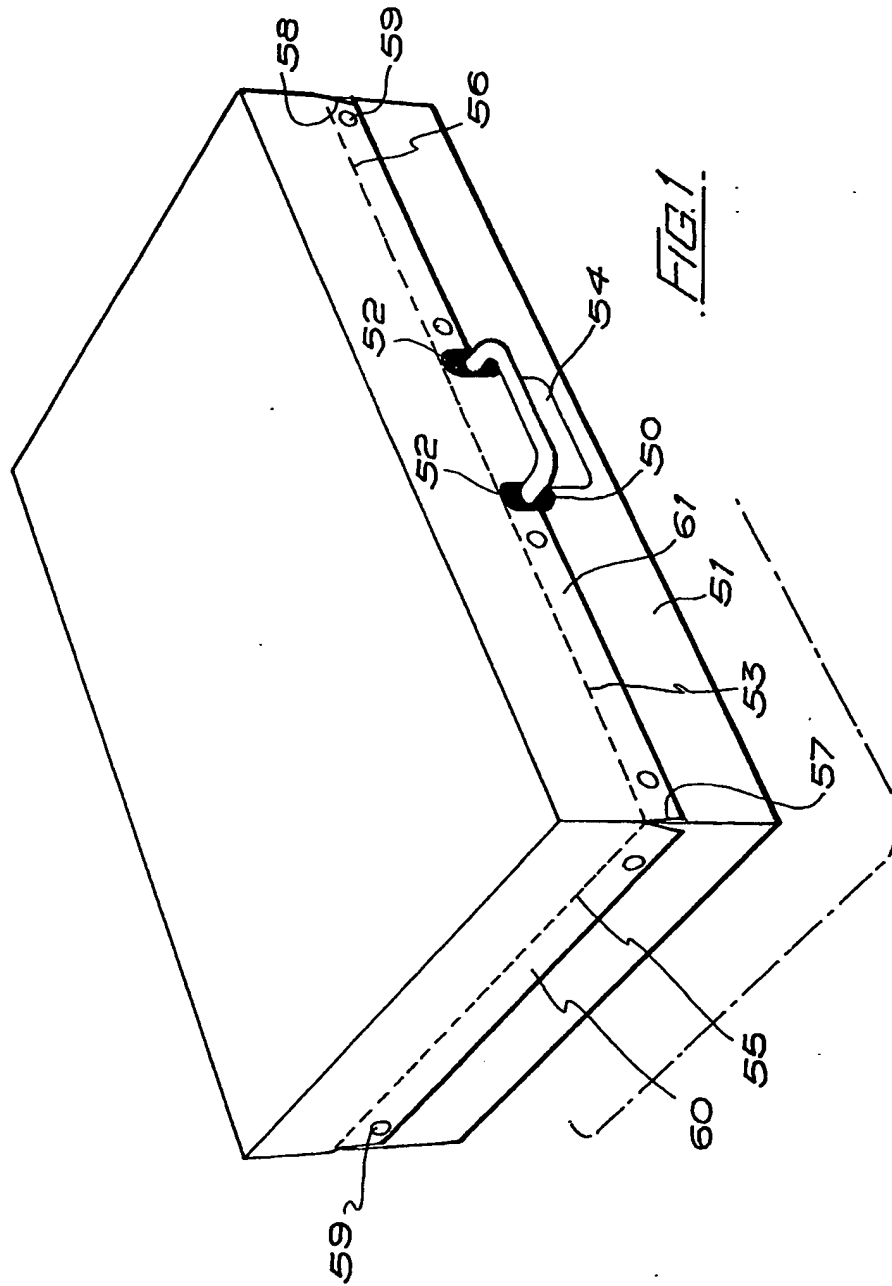


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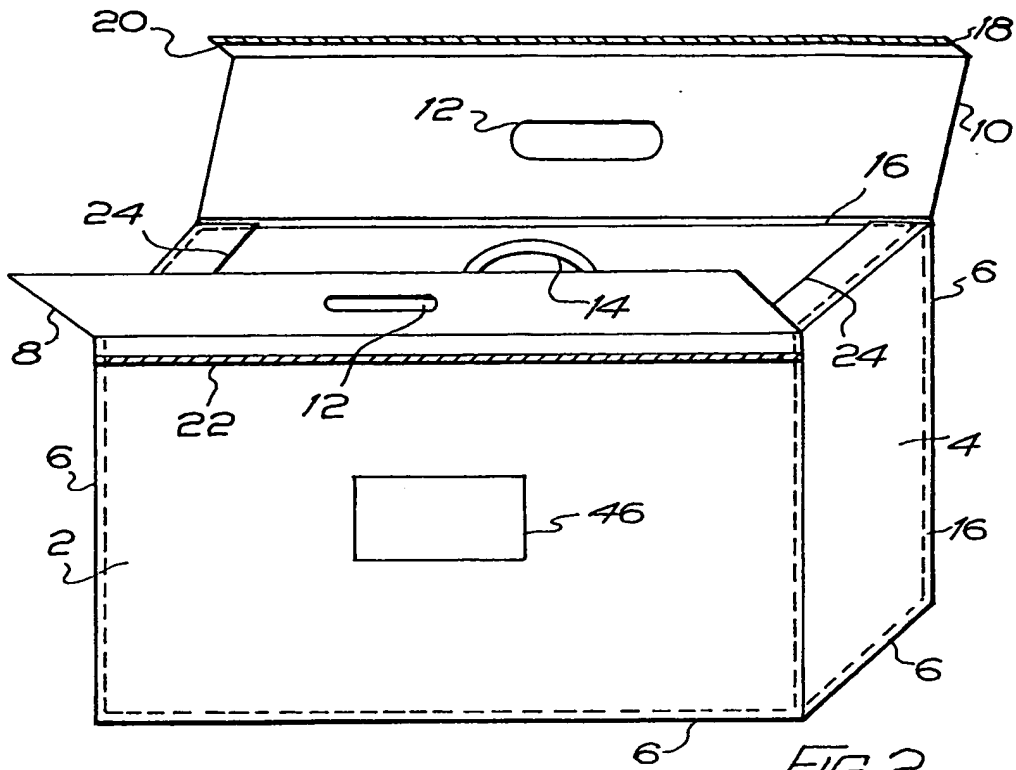


FIG. 2

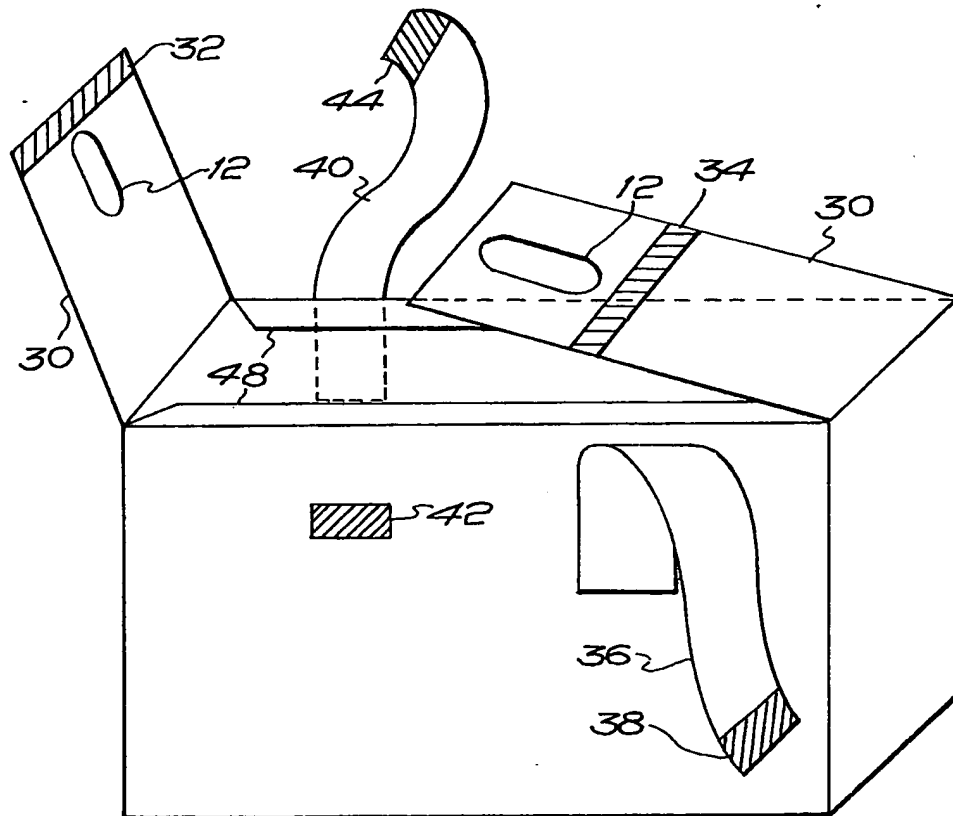


FIG. 3

SPECIFICATION

Suit cases

5 The invention relates to detachable covers for suit cases, which term is to be understood as including portmanteaus, hat-boxes and the like containers.

It is a matter of common experience that suit cases begin to look delapidated after only a short period of use, the delapidation being due largely to rough handling but also to fading, and it is one object of the invention to provide a cover for a suit case which will give a more attractive appearance to an old suit case and give distinctiveness and protection to a new one.

According to one aspect of my invention therefore I provide a detachable box-like cover for enclosing a suit case and according to a further aspect of the invention I provide a suit case enclosed in a detachable box-like cover.

The cover is preferably constructed of a flexible sheet material, a suitable material being a woven fabric constructed of synthetic fibres. The cover will preferably be and remain a snug fit about the case, and advantageously it will be substantially waterproof.

The fabric of the cover may have a name or names or other wording or designs created in the weaving process or applied after weaving for identification or decorative purposes, and the cover may have on at least one face a transparent pocket for containing and displaying a name or other identifying feature. The cover may have an aperture or apertures through which the handle of the suitcase may project, and the cover may be secured about the case by the use of touch-and-close fastening material such as VELCRO (TM), or the cover may be closed around the case by use of at least one zip fastener.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:-

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a suitcase enclosed within a cover of one embodiment;

Figure 2 shows an alternative design of cover open to show a suit-case within;

Figure 3 represents a perspective view of a suitcase cover of yet another embodiment, open but empty.

As shown in the figures the covers comprise generally rectilinear box-like structures comprising opposed front and back panels, opposed end panels and a top and a bottom, the latter portions being defined as corresponding to the top and bottom of a suitcase positioned with the conventional carrying handle uppermost.

The cover shown closed in *Figure 1* is constructed essentially like a conventional suitcase itself, that is to say is comprises a back tray having upwardly extending walls and a lid having downwardly depending flanges which, on three sides vertically overlap the corresponding walls of the box tray. At the fourth side the lid flange is attached to or is integral with the corresponding wall of the base tray.

The cover is constructed of a flexible fabric and the lid may be raised from the base tray by folding or hingeing about the fourth side.

Slots 50 are provided in wall 51 of the base tray to accommodate the handle of a suitcase, and similar slots 52 are cut into the flange 53 of the lid for the same purpose. Between the slots 52 the flange 53 is shaped to provide a tongue 54 more deeply overlapping the wall 51.

To hold the cover in closed position, a pair of zip fasteners is arranged between the upper edge of the base tray and the inside of the lid flange. One fastener 55 runs along one end of the cover and the top as far as the nearer slots 50, 52; the other fastener 56 runs from the other slots 50, 52 and along the other end.

The portion of lid flange 53 overlapping the wall 51 is divided at corners 57, 58 from the other overlapping flange portions so that the overlapping portions define flaps 60, 61 which can be raised when required to give access to the zip fasteners. At other times the flaps are held down by press studs 59.

The tongue 54 is held down, in this embodiment, by means of strips of touch-and-close fastener material attached to the underside of the tongue and the outer face of wall 51. The tongue may also be secured to the wall 51 by means of a small padlock (not shown).

In variations of the embodiment the flaps may be held down by VELCRO (TM) and/or the tongue 54 secured by press studs.

Each of the front, back, end panels and bottom of the cover of *Figure 2* comprises a rectangle of woven sheet material (QAZUL - TM) sewn together at the edges 6.

The top comprises two flaps 8, 10 attached to the upper edge respectively of the front and back panels 2. The upper flaps are arranged to overlap completely, that is to say each is approximately as deep as is the bottom panel, though in less preferred embodiments the overlap may be less than complete. As shown each of the flaps is provided with an aperture 12 so that the carrying handle 14 of the suitcase 16 can pass through.

The flap 10 which is attached to the top of the rear panel has a downward flange 18 along the opposed longer free edge, the flange being lined with a strip 20 of VELCRO. A corresponding strip 22 of VELCRO is arranged adjacent the top edge of the front panel 2 so that with the flanged flap arranged as the uppermost flap, the flange may be releasably attached to the front panel by the touch-and-close property of the respective strips of VELCRO. The top edges of the end panels 4 are provided with short inwardly folding flaps 24.

In the embodiment shown in *Figure 3* longer flaps 30 are secured to the top edges of the end panels. They overlap one another partially, and where they overlap, one of the flaps has a strip 32 of VELCRO on its upper surface whilst the other flap has a strip 34 of VELCRO on its undersurface so that when the flaps are arranged in overlapping relationship the respective strips of VELCRO come together and attach to one another. Narrow, in-

wardly folding flaps 48 are attached to the top edges of the back and front panels. The flaps 30 have apertures 12 to allow the handle of a suitcase located within the cover to protrude.

- 5 Additionally, one end of a strip 36 of fabric is sewn to the front of the cover towards the top and one end thereof, the strip being long enough to be taken over the top of the cover and to attach the back panel by means of a pair of strips of VELCRO, one (not shown) attached to the back panel and one 38 attached to the strip. A similar strip 40 of fabric is sewn to the back panel towards the top and the other end, and this is releasably attached to the front panel by means of a strip 42 of VELCRO attached to the front panel engaging with a similar strip 44 of VELCRO attached to the strip.

The seams by which the panels of the cover of each embodiment are sewn together and by which the strips of fabric and of VELCRO are attached to the panels are rendered waterproof by the application of a sealing agent.

A panel of transparent sheet material 46, shown for convenience only in Figure 2, is permanently attached along three sides to each of the front and back panels to form a pocket into which a card or the like can be introduced through the fourth, open, side, to display for example the name of the owner of the case.

In embodiments not shown a cover may have two top flaps extending from the ends as shown in Figure 3 as well as deep flaps extending from front and back panels as in Figure 2 and, for extra security, strips of fabric overlying the flaps and secured, permanently or temporarily to the front and back panels.

In yet other embodiments not shown, the top of the cover may be a single rectangular panel of size corresponding to the bottom. The top panel is secured to the other portions of the cover by sewing along one edge and by the use of a zip fastener or fasteners running along the other three edges. The or each fastener may be provided with a padlock for added security. Reinforcing members may be secured to the covers internally or externally of the corners.

It will be understood that the box-like structure may be made of a single, shaped, piece of flexible sheet material and folded to provide some of the edges 6 and sewn to provide others. If all the edges are provided by folding and none by sewing, the cover has the advantage of being capable of folding flat when not in use.

Again, whilst the cover has been described as fitting a rectangular suitcase it could be made to fit a portmanteau or hat-box having, for example, the form of a right cylinder. Whilst reference has been made to the use of a fabric woven from filaments or yarns of synthetic materials, other sheet material, suitably scuff-resistant and preferably stretch-free may be used instead. In order to accommodate suitcases of slightly different size, the cover may, alternatively comprise at least some panels of fabric which is stretchable at least in one direction.

65 Whilst the appended claims seek to defined the

present invention as envisaged by the applicant at the time of submitting this application, the applicant reserves the right within the law to claim as an invention in general or specific terms, whether by way of divisional application or otherwise, any feature, method and/or aspect or any combination of features, methods and/or aspects disclosed herein which is or are subsequently identified to be inventive, and regardless of whether, in the case of a combination as aforesaid, the features, methods and/or aspects are disclosed individually in a single one of or in respective embodiments disclosed herein.

80 CLAIMS

1. A box-like detachable cover for enclosing a suitcase.
2. A cover according to Claim 1 constructed of flexible sheet material.
3. A cover according to Claim 1 or 2 provided on an outer face with a transparent pocket for receiving a card or the like bearing information.
4. A detachable cover for enclosing a suitcase, substantially as described with reference to the figures.
5. A suitcase enclosed in a detachable box-like cover according to any one of Claims 1-4.

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